



South Jackson Beacon

Vol X

November 12, 2017

No. 45

Those Privileged to Serve

Nov 12th - MORNING WORSHIP

6 A.M. R. Pack, G. Cooper

Announcements: Darrell Cunningham

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture: Eddie Anderson

Opening Prayer: Ken Ross

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas

Communion:

J. Venable, L. Merritt, P. Love
F. Kidder, W. Ferguson, C. Kidder

Greet: Freeman & Shelia Kidder

Nov 12th - EVENING WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Jeff Lewis

Opening Prayer: Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Gaylon Cooper

Communion:

R. Pack, D. Cunningham

Nov 15th - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Jeff Lewis

Opening Prayer: Darrell Cunningham

Devotional: Ken Ross

Closing Prayer: Joe Venable

Minister: Ray Pack
Email: rpack119@gmail.com
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Medon, TN 38356
www.southjacksonchurchofchrist.org
(731) 424-9721

Nov 19th - MORNING WORSHIP

6 A.M. B. Richardson, M. Wages

Announcements: Darrell Cunningham

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture: Ken Ross

Opening Prayer: Joseph Johnson

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion:

J. Venable, L. Merritt, P. Love
F. Kidder, W. Ferguson, C. Kidder

Greet: Panda Green & Reba Donaldson

Nov 19th - EVENING WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion:

R. Pack, D. Cunningham

Nov 22nd - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Devotional: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas

Weekly Record

6 AM Worship	6
Sun. Morning Bible Study	80
Sunday Morning Worship	129
Sunday Evening Worship	65
Wed. Bible Study	94
Contribution	\$ 3968

Christ's Second Coming and Christian Hope

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" (1 Thess.4:13).

Hope is a powerful ally in the Christian walk. There is nothing as seemingly uncertain as the future, yet there are few things that motivate us more. Christianity is a religion of hope. Christians hope for the betterment of humanity within the world. This motivates us to preach the gospel to the lost in the hopes that they will repent by changing their lives for the better. There is no shortage of lost souls needing change. This, however, is not the extent of the Christian message. For our Lord says, "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:30). The future is important to Christians.

Many eastern worldviews (Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.), as well as the contemporary self-help philosophies of the "new age" would have individuals abandon the future and focus on the present. Living in the moment, we are told, will remove all desires regarding the future, lower individual expectations, align the planets, and usher in an era of peace and harmony – the Age of Aquarius. The folly of such thinking is revealed in the fact that the Age of Aquarius has not arrived despite great efforts to the contrary. The so called advice of "living in the moment" and the hope of a "new age" yet to be ushered in, are two objectives wholly at odds. Ought humanity's efforts to be invested in the future new age? If so, then living in the moment is not the end-all solution it is touted as being. This is fantasy, not hope.

Atheism also offers no real hope for humanity. Those who have adopted the naturalist worldview believe that one day the sun will expand and burn up the earth so as to make it uninhabitable. Should mankind venture into space and survive the earth's demise, nevertheless, all stars will eventually go out. Then, the only source of heat remaining will be black holes. However, after a very long time, these too will expire. Ultimately, all things will break down into microscopic particles, and the heat death of the universe will occur. Humanity will be no more, extinct along with everything else. Humanity will not even be a memory as there will be no one left to remember. There is no hope here.

Within those who profess Christianity, there are those who pervert the biblical message of hope. Scores of individuals have claimed that they know the

exact date of Christ's return. The most recent of these claims was that Christ would return on May 21st, 2011. What is sad is that faith in the biblical message is undermined when such false claims are made. Long has the scripture declared that the hour of Christ's return would be known to no man (Matthew 24:36, 24:50, Mark 13:32, Luke 12:46). Many other scriptures make it plain that Jesus will return "as a thief," that is, unexpectedly (1 Thess.5:2, 4, 2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 3:3, 16:15). Those who set forth a specific date for Christ's return are setting forth a false hope, which is no hope at all.

Another false hope is that the physical world will be transformed, renewed, and populated with the saved. Peter declares clearly that the earth and everything within it will be burned up (2 Peter 3:10-12). The promise of a new heaven and new earth is consistent with that for which the patriarchs sought. "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:16). This is the house not made with hands, eternal, and in the heavens (2 Corinthians 5:1-2). It is that place Jesus has gone to prepare for the faithful, which place is in the Father's house (John 14:1-3). We should not set our hope upon the physical earth as the future abode of the righteous, but upon the eternal kingdom of God, which cannot be inherited by flesh and blood; corruption cannot inherit incorruption (1 Corinthians 15:50). The physical earth as the eternal dwelling place of the saints is a false hope.

Just as there is only one Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, there is only one hope (Ephesians 4:4). This is the hope of Christ's return when he will bring with him the saints and resurrect all from the dead (1 Thess.4:14-16, John 5:28-29). He will judge and separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-33). The saved will enter heaven to be with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for eternity (Matthew 25:34). The wicked will enter hell to dwell with Satan and his angels forever (Matthew 25:41). This is the true and only message of hope: eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked. Only this message of the future motivates to pure and godly living in the present (1 John 3:3, 2 Peter 3:11, 14). May we united upon this message and not be deceived by the false proclamations of others; herein is mankind's only true hope.

*Kevin Cauley
New Boston Church of Christ
New Boston, Texas*

Sunday Sermons

AM - Mature Christian Living - The Challenge - Matthew 4:19
- Ray Pack
PM - Great Bible Words - Joy - Ray Pack

Fruit Baskets

All widows and widowers of the congregation will automatically get a fruit basket. If you have someone in mind that you think would appreciate a fruit basket from South Jackson, please turn their name in to the office.

Congregational News and Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Harold and Doris Davis,
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
James Eddleman, Rachel Epperson,
Ted Lingren, Billy Landers,
Fredie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,
Iva Hopper, Tommye Siegler,
Freeman Kidder, Doug Crouse,
Margie Montgomery, om Crow,
Margie Whitehead, Helen Avent,
Louise Buck, Gwen Smith,
Jorita Richardson, Barbara Ray,
Jerry Crabb, Jeanette Morris,
Mary Bolen, Shirley Puckett
Gaylon & Betty Cooper,
Roberta Donaldson

Friends & Family:

Horace Yearwood, Tim Boyd,
Al Stewart, Ruth Cox,
Judy Jennings, Raymond Cagle,
Beverly Martindale, Rosie Love,
Bethany Tims, Nancy Anderson,
Bill and Gladys Gowan,
Loretta Stanfill, John Sawyer

Cards to Send

Roberta Donaldson
123 Old Pinson Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Joe Venable
1065 Forrest
Henderson, TN 38340

Money Tree for Lauren Pack's Wedding Gift

Please give your money to Leah Wages or Jorita Richardson by the end of services tonight.

Happenings

South Jackson

11/16
Ladies Holiday Devo
6:30 PM at the building
Check the bulletin board for more
information and to sign up

11/19

Men's Business Meeting at 3:30 PM

12/8

Adult Holiday Party

Area Events

12/1

Freed Hardeman University Benefit
Dinner

Pantry Item

Canned Tuna or Chicken

FHU Student Series Speaker Address

Dalton Todd
158 E Main Street
Box 10467
Henderson, TN 38340

Please take a moment and send a card or note of encouragement to each speaker we have during this series.